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cond.

81. (NEW) The method of claim 80, wherein the self learning of the location of network devices further comprise the steps of storing the source address of each data packet in at least one address table with an indication that the address is for a network device associated with a ring port.

82. (NEW) The method of claim 81, wherein removing the data packets off the ring network further comprises the steps of removing the data packet from the ring network when the source address is in the address table with an indication that the network device is associated with a local port.

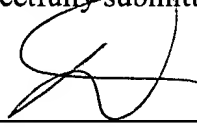
CONCLUSION

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 52-82 are added hereby. Claims 52-82 are now pending in the present application.

Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 252-0014.

Respectfully submitted,

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